



Town of Discovery Bay
A California Community Services District
"Friday Letter"
To the Board of Directors
SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

From: Rick Howard, General Manager

General Manager/Administration:

- ✓ The BIG news this week is the return of the NFL football season! For those of you that play fantasy football, may all of your fantasy dreams come true! With that, Go Chargers! ☺
- ✓ This morning Du-ALL Safety conducted heat illness prevention training for operations staff and their managers at the Community Center. The training received praise from attendees, and from what I have heard was exceptionally informative.



- ✓ As you know, I receive a regular update from NOAA on the status of weather patterns, the ongoing drought, wild land fires, and predictions on future weather patterns. This week's update indicates that there is an El Nino forming in the equatorial zone, but that

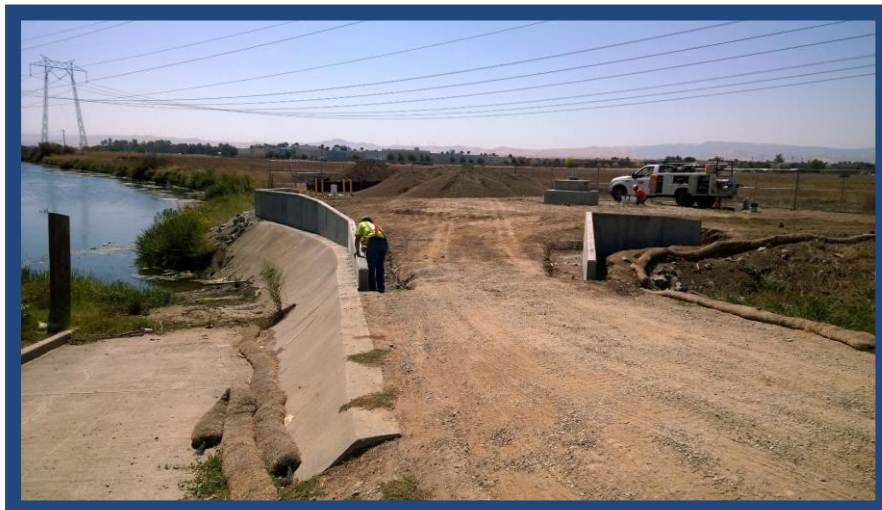
expectations are that it will be a weak event this winter. While NOAA cautions that the lack of an El Nino is not necessarily an indicator of things to come, a strong El Nino has historically brought above average amounts of rainfall. We'll just have to wait and see what develops.

Parks, Landscape and Recreation Services

- ✓ The County Health Department showed up without notice today to perform a pool inspection. I'm happy to report, that other than a minor signage issue, the pool passed all required components of the inspection!
- ✓ The Lion's Club Car Show takes place tomorrow at the Community Center, starting at 10:00 a.m.
- ✓ In light of the conversation that took place at the last Board meeting on the subject of permitting alcohol in parks, I have attached a recent news article from the Green Bay Gazette (WI) on the subject. I thought it might be of interest considering its timeliness. The article is attached, below.

Water and Wastewater Services

- ✓ Well 7 is moving forward. The photo below shows the recently constructed retaining walls and the well head in the background.



- ✓ The clarifier at WWTP2 was recently excavated and reached the required depth of 25'. The photo below shows the future clarifier and its depth. The water in the bottom is ground water and the pipes are part of the dewatering process.



- ✓ The Bio-Solids are being spread in the fields behind WWTP2, pursuant to NPDES requirements. This is an annual process and generally takes place in September or October of each year. Here's an exciting photo of the bio solids being readied for spreading!



Important Dates

Upcoming important dates are as follows:

- Lions Car Show – Community Center – Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
- CSD Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
- CSD Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 1, 2014 has been CANCELLED.

Beer gardens return to Milwaukee parks

By Carrie Antlfinger, Associated Press 11:30 a.m. CDT August 29, 2014



Scott Johnson, left, Andrew Geisler and Matthew Dusenberry enjoy oversized glass mugs of beer at Estabrook Park Beer Garden in Milwaukee on Aug. 20, 2014.(Photo: Carrie Antlfinger/AP)

MILWAUKEE — Oversized mugs of beer clink together as drinkers sitting under a canopy of trees in a Milwaukee public park listen to live accordion music and proclaim "Prost!" — the German equivalent of "cheers."

It's a scene that harkens back 150 years, when Germans brought breweries and beer gardens to the city, until Prohibition shut the gathering spots down in the early 20th century.

But traditional beer gardens are back in Milwaukee County, as some parks departments nationwide are starting to embrace once-banned alcohol to shore up their budgets. And regulars at the Estabrook Park Beer Garden in Milwaukee love that they can bring their picnic baskets of snacks to the lines of tables along the Milwaukee River and enjoy drinks in the short-lived warm summer air. "This is our Regal Beagle, if you will," said 36-year-old salesman Andrew Geisler, referring to the bar in the television show "Three's Company."

Rich Dolesh, vice president for conservation and parks at the National Recreation and Parks Association, said many parks departments still ban alcohol, but have eased the rules for festivals, concerts, golf courses and weddings.

What's new is making beer or wine a prominent feature of an ongoing event, he said. "It's fair to say it's unusual, but it's the coming trend," he said.

In Charleston County, S.C., the parks department makes about \$4,000 for each Yappy Hour in the summer, which involves dogs, bands, and wine and beer. That kind of creative thinking has helped more than double the parks budget to \$48 million in the last 10 years without raising taxes, said Tom O'Rourke, executive director of the county's Park and Recreation Commission.

"If the government doesn't get into the beer or alcohol business, it's not like it's not going to happen," he said. "The same events are going to go on and the outside vendors are going to make the profit."

Word of Milwaukee County's beer garden success is catching on, with the parks department receiving inquiries from Atlanta, Seattle and Cleveland. The parks director is speaking about beer in parks in October at the National Recreation and Parks Conference.

County officials estimate that from the time the first garden started in 2012 through the end of this season in September, they will have brought in \$560,000 for the county.

"None of us are getting as much (revenue) as we used to," said County Executive Chris Abele. "And we don't want to just pass costs onto taxpayers."

Beer gardens weren't terribly hard for people to accept in Milwaukee County, which has one of the highest numbers of people with German ancestry in the country. While the big breweries moved years ago, save for MillerCoors, beer is still ingrained here, with smaller breweries popping up. Not to mention the Milwaukee Brewers play in a stadium called Miller Park.

Some were worried about public drunkenness before the first garden started in 2012, but sheriff's department spokeswoman Fran McLaughlin said the county has not had any citations or arrests associated with beer gardens.

"I think we've clearly demonstrated that this is a family-friendly community place, and it's not a place of drunken debauchery," said Hans Weissgerber III, the owner of a German restaurant who runs the Estabrook beer garden.

He approached the county for five years in a row before they decided to create beer gardens. He got the idea from Germany, where some vendors pay the government rent for beer gardens in parks. Beer is so embraced there that it's common to see someone legally drinking a cold one on the subway.

Another traveling beer garden will start next summer in Milwaukee-area parks, and Abele is open to more. And if they end up making enough, the revenue could spill over to other county budgets, he said.

"Milwaukeeans love to get together and celebrate, and it's not a little bit more than most people — it's a lot more," Abele said.